

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 7, 8, 11, 12, and 15-21 are pending, with claims 1, 3, 7, 16, and 19 being withdrawn, and claims 1, 2, and 12 being independent. Claims 2 and 12 have been amended for clarity. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 2, 8, 11, 17, and 20 are allowed.

In response to the objection to the drawings, applicant has amended Figs. 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 to be labeled, respectively, as Figs. 1A, 1B; 2A, 2B; 3A, 3B; 5A, 5B; and 6A, 6B, 6C. Accordingly, applicant requests withdrawal of the drawing objections.

In response to the objection to the disclosure, applicant had previously amended the text at page 6, lines 6, 8, 10, 14, and 16 in the Reply filed on November 10, 2004. Accordingly, applicant requests withdrawal of the disclosure objection.

Claims 12, 15, 18, and 21 have been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being obvious over claims 1-4, 7, 14-17, and 23-28 of U.S. Publication No. 2004/0263056 (the '056 publication). The '056 publication was filed on June 23, 2004 and the pending application was filed on December 23, 2003. Because the provisional nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is the only rejection remaining in the pending application (which is the earlier filed application), applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw this rejection and permit this application to issue as a patent without a terminal disclaimer. See MPEP §804I.B.1.

In conclusion, applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

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Filed : December 23, 2003
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It is believed that no fee is due in connection with this reply. Nevertheless, please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement sheets of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6, and replace the original sheets including Figs. 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6.

Fig. 1 has been labeled as Figs. 1A and 1B;

Fig. 2 has been labeled as Figs. 2A and 2B;

Fig. 3 has been labeled as Figs. 3A and 3B;

Fig. 5 has been labeled as Figs. 5A and 5B; and

Fig. 6 has been labeled as Figs. 6A, 6B, and 6C.

Attachments following last page of this Amendment:

Replacement Sheets (5 pages)